



Unincorporated Area of the County of San Diego

P.O. Box 613, Jamul, CA 91935

Final Minutes

DATE: November 4, 2025

1. Call to Order 7:03 pm
2. Roll Call
 - **Present:** John McClure, Preston Brown, Lucille Hargraves, Lisa Hodgson, Paul Dombkowski, Michael Casinelli, Al Provencio, Eve Nasby, David Imrie, Thomas Gray
 - **Excused:** Darla Kasmedo, Janet Mulder, Kevin May, Ed Mollon, Steve Wragg
 - **Unexcused:** N/A
3. Review and Approval of Minutes: October 21, 2025
 - **Michael Casinelli** moves to approve the October 21 minutes as written.
 - ***Motion passed unanimously.***
4. Open Forum
 - **Vice Chair Paul Dombkowski** shared that the old Barrett Ranch property now owned by Jamul Indian Village (JIV) has had lights put up and looks like a big parking lot. He is wondering if anyone knows what is going on there. Possibly for employee parking?
 - **Chair Lisa Hodgson** received an email from DPW (Department of Public Works) that there will be improvements made in Jamul in the area of Lyons Valley Rd from Skyline Truck Trail to Barret Lake Rd trail. DPW noted that the work encompasses 1.17 miles, and is scheduled to begin in the summer of 2026, and be completed by the fall of 2027.
5. Presentation by DarkSky International-San Diego County Chapter (Cathy Handzel)
 - After being introduced by **Preston Brown**, Cathy Handzel spoke on behalf of DarkSky San Diego County, the local chapter of DarkSky International. Cathy has been involved in chapter leadership for several years and is now focused on Dark Sky projects. San Diego Bird Alliance representatives Muriel Spooner and Leslie Handa are also joining the meeting online.
 - Cathy's presentation gave a multitude of information and resources. Some of the highlights:
 - DarkSky San Diego is for everyone, from all walks of life, and all ages; it's not just for astronomers.
 - Dark Sky San Diego encourages responsible lighting, not necessarily no lighting.
 - Light pollution is defined as excessive or inappropriate use of night light. It can be classified into four categories: Light Trespass, Light Clutter, Skyglow, and Glare.
 - Light pollution can be harmful to animals in our region, especially nocturnal animals and migrating birds. Nocturnal animals need darkness and artificial night lighting can confuse them (think baby sea turtles who follow streetlights instead of the full moon and get run over). The majority of migrating birds fly at night and can become disoriented by light often with deadly results. Artificial light can be harmful

to the marine habitat. Artificial lighting can be detrimental to the health of humans, too. Decreasing the amount of lighting used at night can also save on energy costs.

- Light pollution blocks out the stars in the night sky. 99% of the US population is unable to see the Milky Way.
- SD County has a lighting ordinance in place which minimizes the negative impacts of nighttime lighting. The County has three lighting zones: Zone A is near observatories; Zone C includes areas that have become Dark Sky Communities; Zone B is the remainder of the County. SD County currently has 3 Dark Sky Communities, with several other areas working to become a Zone C area.
- Jamul and Dulzura areas have a Dark Skies Policy in their Subregional Plan which encourages all residents to help maintain the rural character of our communities by using responsible lighting choices.
- When installing and using outdoor lights, keep these five principles in mind to minimize light pollution:
 - Make it useful (use it only where it's needed)
 - Make it targeted (shielded; aimed down)
 - Make it Low Level (minimize the brightness)
 - Control it (use motion sensors and dimmers whenever possible)
 - Pay attention to the color (warm color of soft, amber light is best)
- When buying lights for outdoors, make sure they are DarkSky Certified.
- You can actually certify your home as dark sky friendly by following good lighting protocols.
- Another great online resource for useful nighttime lighting tips is the [San Diego Bird Alliance](#) (formerly the Audubon Society). They have an event called "[Lights Out, San Diego](#)" which encourages all residents to decrease their outdoor lighting during peak bird migration times.
- Some questions from JDCPG members after Cathy's presentation:
- **Preston Brown** asked about how best to get others to be dark sky conscious without offending. He thought that certifying your own home might help. **Preston** also asked how to best inform a community. Cathy suggested becoming an International DarkSky Community, like Valley Center is doing. They actually have a subcommittee that focuses solely on DarkSky policies. Cathy said they began with businesses first. Cathy went on to say that the biggest threats to maintaining a dark sky are new residents and neighbors, and new businesses that may be uncomfortable with the dark.
- **Michael Casinelli** asked Cathy about whether DarkSky San Diego does more than just disseminate information. He mentioned how Drew Ford lights up everything since they had serious vandalism issues years ago.
- **Michael** asked what has to happen to qualify for a Dark Sky community. Cathy said it is a serious thing. There is an application process through Dark Sky International that is being revised in 2026. There is a preapplication fee, and multiple other steps to get the "Zone C" status. Cathy also said that this is a voluntary commitment and has to be self-enforced.
- **Michael** asked what happened to the plan for SDG&E to replace streetlights in the 1980's with "warm" lighting. He said that there were lots of complaints about how the warm light changed the ability to view colors of cars. Cathy said that these low-pressure sodium lights are being phased out now by LED lighting.
- **Michael** shared that our Jamul Dulzura subregional plan under Environment Policy 6 says "this area SHOULD take light into consideration, but it doesn't say "MUST". JDCPG has been vocal that this exists in our plan, but can it really be enforced? Cathy said that the County's policy IS enforceable, and it is much more clearly spelled out.
- **Preston** asked if Cathy would be willing to help engage the Jamul Casino and Hotel into changing some of their lighting policies. Cathy says there may be some opportunities to do just that.
- **Michael and other JDCPG members** thanked Cathy and told her that her presentation was educational.
- For more information, visit [DarkSky San Diego County \(https://darksksandiego.org\)](https://darksksandiego.org).

- LOTS of useful information and tips on how to speak to neighbors and share information can be found at [DarkSky International](https://darksky.org/) (<https://darksky.org/>)

6. Election of New Association of Planning Groups (APG) Representative for JDCPG

- **Vice Chair Paul Dombkowski** described what being the APG representative entails:
- Two in-person meetings annually on a Saturday morning. The next one is scheduled for January 2026.
- In between the in-person meetings, APG Lead Robin Joy Maxson and Eileen Delaney send updates to our representative over email about what is happening at SANDAG meetings (held twice a month). The representative then shares this information with JDCPG. The representative can also let Robin know what our CPG is doing so that other CPGs know about it.
- **Paul** also is the current lead for the “SANDAG Public Safety Committee”, one of several Policy Action Committees within the APG. Taking on the APG representative role does not have to include this responsibility. If you choose to become more active as the APG rep, you can eventually become involved with one of these action committees later. The Public Safety Committee meets once a month downtown where you sit with a lot of leaders from around the county. The Transportation Committee has two meetings a month.
- **Preston Brown** asked about the status on a vote to represent all the CPGs. **Paul** said it is still going forward with the bills in Sacramento.
- **Chair Lisa Hodgson** said we have three more scheduled meetings this year for JDCPG, and we will need to elect a new APG representative by the end of the year. **Lisa** intends to call for nominations at the next meeting. **Paul** said that **Steve Wragg** is the current alternate APG representative.
- **Preston** thanked **Paul** for being our APG representative and for working hard to establish this new group which will connect with the other CPGs and provide representation on the Board of SANDAG.

7. Wildfire Evacuation Tour with SANDAG and CalTrans-Highway 94

- **Vice Chair Paul Domkowski** shared two updates.
- **Paul** spoke with the route engineer concerning the timing of the lights along State Route 94. The engineer determined that adjustments needed to be made at Jefferson and at Lyons Valley Road. The timing has been adjusted now, so the engineer asked **Paul** to let him know if there is still an issue with this. Supposedly it will only take 20-30 minutes to travel through the main thoroughfare of 94 now. **Paul** added that the volume of vehicles is still a huge issue.
- **Preston Brown** asked if there has been any discussion regarding an updated traffic study. **Paul** answered in his second update from CalTrans, which concerns the Vista Sage/94 intersection. **Paul** reiterated the agreement between JIV and the County, which included a traffic study by CalTrans in 2020-2021. CalTrans has recently reassessed traffic volumes in 2025. CalTrans and DPW (Department of Public Works) have resumed discussions on what other improvements can be made along 94. The County of SD is the lead agency. **Paul** said there were no updates specifically for Vista Sage, but the customer service request is still good and this means that CalTrans is still talking about making improvements. **Preston** asked if statistics might be released, and **Paul** said he did not know.
- **Chair Lisa Hodgson** said this update was word for word the same as the August 15 letter from Representative Carl DeMaio. **Lisa** said the issue isn't dead, so that's a good thing.
- **Paul** will need someone from JDCPG to be in touch with Tyler Hicks from CalTrans when he steps down.
- **Paul** also shared about the community of Dulzura and speeding that has been occurring, especially with motorcycles. **Paul** was able to share a video taken by Lance Hafen (owner of Valentina Vineyards) with Captain Michael Monteagudo with the CHP in the El Cajon area. The video showed 6 to 8 motorcycles ripping through the Dulzura area and actually showed one of them passing an SUV on an inside curve. This past weekend, 2 officers were in the Dulzura area. On Saturday, they issued one

citation and one verbal warning. On Sunday, between 9:30 am and noon, they issued thirteen citations and one verbal warning.

- **Paul** will help with the transition for the JDCPG member who takes over this contact.

8. Association of Planning Groups (APG)

- **Vice Chair Paul Dombkowski** had no updates to share this evening.

9. Jamul Casino Hotel and Entertainment Center Expansion Project

- **Chair Lisa Hodgson** received a courtesy notification that EPA Region 9 has opened the public notice for the NPDES permit renewal for the Hollywood Casino Wastewater Treatment Plant (Jamul Casino WWTP) No. [CA0084294](#) (to see online, [click here](#)) The public may comment before November 24 when it closes.
- **Michael Casinelli** asked if Fish and Game monitor the runoff downstream from the casino. **Preston Brown** answered that they do monitor the runoff.

10. Park Land Dedication Ordinance (PLDO) Project

- **Chair Lisa Hodgson** sent our 2025 input via email as discussed at our last meeting, and confirmation was received.
- Dan Neirinckx met with Superintendent Liz Bystadt, and it seems there is still a question as to where the school playground would be and where the park would be. The exact location of the fencing still needs to be clarified. Dan thinks we need to send an engineer to speak with the school district about the placement of the fences. When school is in session, the playground would be off limits except for students. The park would be open after school hours. The County continues to ask about equipment needs. Dan thinks the engineer from the school district needs to speak with the County engineer. **Michael Casinelli** said he was under the impression that the school district already knew where the fences should be placed. **Michael** isn't sure which person would be best to get this to go forward. Dan thinks it would be best if we were to take the lead on this.
- **Chair Lisa Hodgson** asked what would be in the park. Dan said swings and "fancy" slides. **Michael** still wants a pickleball court. **Lisa** reminded **Michael** that there is an existing pickleball court near Oak Grove Middle School. **Vice Chair Paul Domkowski** said you have to bring your own net. **Eve Nasby** asked whether we had done a survey about what to include in the park. **Lisa** said yes, but only about twelve people responded, and all had different requests.
- **Lisa** asked if we really needed a park, or if we are just trying to spend the PLDO money. **Lisa** said that the beauty of Jamul is that all the properties are like their own personal parks.
- **Michael** said we had discussed creating a community center at one point. **Lisa** said that it seemed like this would be more beneficial to our area.
- **Eve** asked how close the park is to the baseball fields. Dan replied that one field backs up to the proposed park area. **Michael** said the main ballfield is used for organized sports, and it happens to be adjacent to the area they are looking at for the park, which is why they tried to move it eastward.
- **Michael** said it has been difficult to find a location. Dan asked if we want to revisit asking SDGE about their "staging area" in the corner of the old Simpson property. **Michael** said it might be worth a try, but last time they didn't even reply. **Lisa** said if someone wanted to draft a letter that we could take a vote on it. **Michael** and Dan volunteered to draft the letter. The letter can be sent to the editorial subcommittee after the draft has been written.

11. JDCPG Officer's Announcements and Reports:

- **Chair Lisa Hodgson** was able to attend a meeting in the Lawson Valley area on November 1.
- Andrew Hayes and his assistant Kylee from Supervisor Anderson's office were in attendance, along with about 40 residents. A lot of the meeting was specific to the Lawson Valley residents.

- Mr. Hayes said that there is \$100,000,000 dollars allocated to Supervisor Anderson's district for road projects.
- Mr. Hayes wants to work with CalFire to increase the availability of permanent and designated emergency evacuation routes. This idea was also discussed at the Ramona fire town hall where Sheriffs and Supervisor Anderson himself were in attendance.
- The Jamul Fire Safe Council also wanted to capitalize on this, and they may be looking for an endorsement from CPG. Hopefully working together, we can make this happen. **Lisa** will let us know if she hears anything from Steve Wallace regarding this endorsement.
- Dan said that the Wisecarver "escape" road is private land. **Lisa** said that the residents in that area leave the gate open for their convenience. However, if this easement is abused, the residents sometimes close it. One of the things that could happen would be for CalFire to get an easement to keep this road accessible at all times. Mr. Hayes is trying to bring all the agencies together and use money that has already been allocated for roads to make this all happen.
- **Michael Casinelli** said a company did a study about this years ago, in 2009. **Preston Brown** said Fehr & Peers had conducted a study for evacuation routes back in 2012. They did this for Jamul and for Valley Center. Preston will send the report to **Lisa** and she will share this information with Mr. Hayes.
- **Lisa** said a letter of support to improve access to Loveland Reservoir was sent by Supervisor Anderson's office. There was a lot of discussion about how we can make sure Loveland Reservoir is not dead pooled again – fire safety and similar concerns were noted.
- **Lisa** shared that there is no funding for an OHV (Off Highway Vehicle) park -- the study is complete, and without funding, it will not be going forward.
- The Dulzura Community Meeting December 13, 2025 at 5:00 pm at 1136 Community Building Rd, Dulzura.

12. Review of Action Items

- **Preston** Brown will send Fehr & Peers report on the study for evacuation routes to **Chair Lisa Hodgson**, who will then forward it to Andrew Hayes.
- Dan Neirinckx and **Michael Casinelli** will draft a letter asking SDGE to donate their 1-acre property for a park. This will then be sent to the editorial review subcommittee.

13. Adjournment: 9:16 pm

NOTICE OF NEXT REGULAR MEETING

Tuesday, November 18, 2025 @7:00 p.m.
Jamul-Dulzura Union School District – Jamul Education Center
14581 Lyons Valley Road, Jamul, CA 91935

Hybrid Meeting: Both In-person and Zoom Attendance

Meeting Minutes and Agendas can be accessed at: <http://www.sdcounty.ca.gov/pds/CommunityGroups.html>

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JAMUL DULZURA COMMUNITY PLANNING GROUP

MISSION STATEMENT

"The mission of the Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group is to represent the best interests of the communities of Jamul and Dulzura while adhering to County of San Diego, California Board of Supervisors Policy I-1."

PURPOSE STATEMENT

The purpose of the Jamul-Dulzura Community Planning Group is:

- *To provide a public forum where local citizens can learn about issues of importance to them and their community and provide input.*
- *To carefully consider all input when advising the county on such issues as planning, land use, discretionary projects, and community and sub-regional plans.*